

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



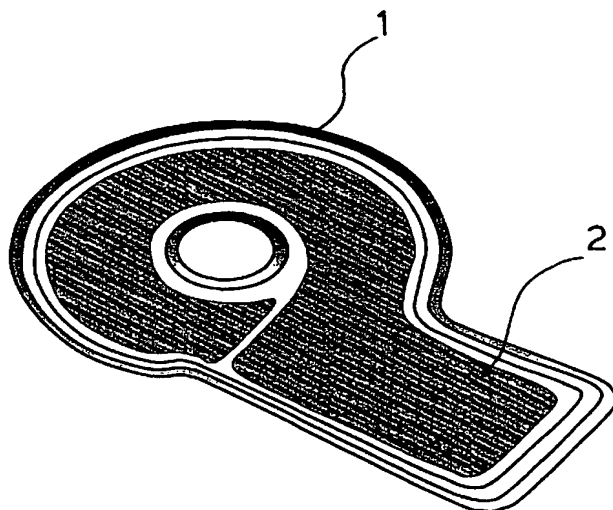
(43) International Publication Date
21 May 2004 (21.05.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/042132 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **D06F**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/009928
- (22) International Filing Date:
8 September 2003 (08.09.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
PN2002 A 000086
7 November 2002 (07.11.2002) IT
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: CONDUIT WITH IMPROVED ELECTRIC HEATING ELEMENT AND CLOTHES DRYING MACHINE PROVIDED WITH SUCH A CONDUIT



(57) Abstract: Conduit for conveying and heating a flow of gas, comprising in its interior at least an electric heating element formed by a thick-film layer, in which said electric heating element works as a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element and is arranged peripherally in relation to the gas flow cross-section of the conduit, i.e. is oriented in a substantially parallel manner to the flow direction of said gas, so that the latter is not even partially obstructed by such a thick-film layer. In a preferred manner, this heating element is subdivided into a plurality of individual and distinct heating elements arranged in parallel and energized in a successive and cumulative manner so that the initial power input can be maintained within pre-established limits, while the power input under steady-state conditions is reduced to a quite lower value, which is however still sufficiently high as to ensure an acceptable power output level.